

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

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R 011441Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6174

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1316

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS: ELECTION PREPARATIONS

REFS: (A) LISBON 1290 (DTG 271710Z FEB 76), (B) LISBON 1291
(DTG 271716Z FEB 76)

SUMMARY: THE FELLOW-TRAVELLING MDP ANNOUNCED THAT IT WILL NOT
COMPETE IN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS, BUT WILL CAMPAIGN
ON BEHALF OF "LEFTIST CANDIDATES." CUNHAL'S PARTICIPATION IN CPSU
CONGRESS PROVOKED RIDICULE FOR HIS SUBSERVIENCE TO
MOSCOW. END SUMMARY

1. ELECTIONS: PREPARATONS FOR APRIL 25 LEGISLATIVE
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ELECTIONS MOVED INTO FULL SWING AS MARCH 6 DATE FOR

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES APPROACHED.

-- MDP: THE FELLOW-TRAVELLING PORTUGUESE DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT (MDP) ANNOUNCED FEB 27 ITS DECISION NOT TO PRESENT CANDIDATES FOR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS "SO AS NOT TO DIVIDE VOTES FOR THE LEFT." LEADER JOSE TENGARRINHA SAID THAT MDP WOULD ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN ELECTION CAMPAIGN ON BEHALF OF LEFTIST PARTIES, AND THAT MDP MEMBERS MIGHT RUN ON SLATES OF OTHER PARTIES. TENGARRINHA STATED THAT MDP WOULD SUPPORT THE WORKERS ALONGSIDE THE PS AND PCP, BUT WARNED THAT PS MUST MAKE THE CORRECT DECISIONS.

-- LCI AND PRP: THE MINUSCULE TROTSKYITE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST LEAGUE (LCI) ANNOUNCED FEB 27 THAT IT WOULD RUN CANDIDATES FOR THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN ALL ELECTION DISTRICTS. THE FAR-LEFT REVOLUTIONARY PARTY OF THE PROLETARIAT (PRP) ANNOUNCED FEB 28 THAT IT WOULD NOT COMPETE IN THE "BOURGEOIS" ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS. HOWEVER, THE PRP ANNOUNCED THAT IT COULD SUPPORT A MILITARY CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT WHO IDENTIFIES HIMSELF WITH THE COPCON DOCUMENT AND "POPULAR POWER."

-- SOCIALIST MEETING: MARIO SOARES ANNOUNCED A MEETING OF EUROPEAN SOCIALIST LEADERS IN OPORTO MARCH 13 AND 14. THE PS ANNOUNCED THAT PRIME MINISTERS OF SWEDEN, AUSTRIA, DENMARK, AND HOLLAND, AND MANY OTHER STATE AND PARTY LEADERS WILL ATTEND (REF A).

-- ELECTION DEADLINE: GDS COMPLAINED THAT MARCH 6 DEADLINE FOR PRESENTING LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY CANDIDATES IS TOO SOON. SEVERAL SMALL PARTIES, INCLUDING THE POPULAR MONARCHIST PARTY AND THE POPULAR DEMOCRATIC UNION, MADE SIMILAR PROTEST. THE PS, PPD, AND PCP ALL MOVED AHEAD WITH SELECTION OF ELECTION CANDIDATES.

2. CUNHAL-BREZHNEV MEETING: PCP LEADER CUNHAL'S FEB 28 MEETING WITH BREZHNEV RECEIVED EXTENSIVE COVERAGE HERE. MEDIA SEIZED ON THE MEETING AND CUNHAL'S EFFUSIVE PRAISE OF THE SOVIET UNION IN HIS EARLIER SPEECH TO CPSU
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CONGRESS AS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF CUNHAL'S SUBSERVIENCE TO SOVIET UNION (REF B). TAKING ITS CUE FROM CUNHAL'S STATEMENT TO CPSU THAT SOVIET UNION'S "DISINTERESTED STRUGGLE FOR PEACE AND SECURITY WAS LIKE THE LIGHT OF THE SUN FOR OUR PLANET EARTH," PRO-SOCIALIST "A LUTA," FOR EXAMPLE, HEAPED RIDICULE ON CUNHAL.

3. TRAVELERS:

-- SA CARNEIRO: POPULAR DEMOCRATIC PARTY LEADER SA
CARNEIRO DEPARTED FOR A TWO-WEEK TRIP TO CANADA AND THE
UNITED STATES ON FEB 28. HE WILL RETURN BY WAY OF FRANCE,
WHERE HE WILL MEET WITH GISCARD.

-- FOREIGN MINISTER MELO ANTUNES DEPARTS MARCH 2 FOR
IRAN IN SEARCH OF THUS FAR ELUSIVE ASSISTANCE FROM THE
MIDDLE EAST. HE WILL STOP IN GREECE MARCH 6 ON RETURN.

4. COMMENT: THE MDP POSITION IS USEFUL TO THE PCP IN SEVERAL
RESPECTS. SOME OF THE 4.5 PER CENT WHICH THE
MDP ACHIEVED IN THE 1975 ELECTIONS WILL SHIFT TO THE
PCP. IN CERTAIN DISTRICTS, PRESTIGIOUS MDP FIGURES
COULD HELP A COMMUNIST SLATE. MOREOVER, THE MDP HAS
JOINED THE PCP IN SEEKING TO PUSH THE SOCIALISTS INTO
AN ALLIANCE OF THE LEFT.
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